

New York, Monday, April 17, 1843.

## Herald Literary Depot.

All the new and cheap literary publications of the day are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the Herald Office, northeast corner of Nassau and Fulton streets.

**MR. WEBSTER AND THE BOUNDARY QUESTION.**—We call the attention of the American public to our report of the deeply interesting proceedings which took place at the rooms of the Historical Society, on Saturday evening last, relative to the map recently discovered among the papers of the late Peter A. B. Widener, throwing a flood of light on the Boundary Question.

The discovery of this map explodes all the fanciful theory of the supposed Franklin map brought to light by Mr. Jared Sparks, on the authority of which British journals have accused the United States Government of unfairness and dishonest conduct in the recent negotiations. By this discovery we are enabled to cast back the imputation with contempt upon the British writers and British journalists. The eloquent speech of Mr. Webster is a reply most conclusive.

In fact and in truth, instead of dishonor on the part of our Government towards the British, there is a much stronger appearance of giving in to the assumptions and claims, without foundation, made by Lord Ashburton. It is evident now, from this curious development, that in the treaty of Washington, the United States Government clearly gave up their unobtainable right and title to a large portion of the territory in question, without receiving any equivalent. Read Mr. Webster's speech, and then decide. As the facts now indicate, there is much more reason for the American people to be dissatisfied with their own Government, than for the British Government or the British press to cast any imputations of bad faith upon the authorities of this country in the Ashburton negotiation.

**POLITICAL SIGNS AND MOVEMENTS.**—Mr. Ritchie of the Richmond Enquirer, asks the reason, why the resolution, offered by Frank Wadell at Tammany Hall in favor of holding the National Convention in May, 1844, by the district per capita system, was suppressed in certain papers here. "The Evening Post" and "Plebeian" can tell—if they do not, we can.

That resolution was approved by a portion of the meeting—the larger portion, however, saying nothing. It was withheld from publication by the Chairman, Stephen Allen and the committee, because they did not conceive it appropriate for the occasion to have been offered. Those who offered and supported it, were the friends of Mr. Calhoun, but the friends of Mr. Van Buren insist that they are the most numerous in this latitude.

We learn further that the legislature before their adjournment this week, will issue an address and resolutions, developing the position of the "democratic" of York in relation to the next Presidency—and it is probable that they will recommend to this State the old time and mode of organizing the National Convention—at Baltimore in December next—Mr. Van Buren the candidate. This will be confirmed by a meeting at Tammany Hall, and the line of division made between the houses of York and Carolina—Lindenwald and Pendleton.

Great changes are taking place elsewhere. We see that in Philadelphia the whig papers are beginning to abandon Mr. Clay and a Bank, and to look towards Calhoun and free trade. In this city there is a warm feeling for Mr. Calhoun among a small portion, but the bulk of the "democratic" is unquestionably for Van Buren first, and Mr. Calhoun afterwards. It is best to tell the truth, and to let Mr. Calhoun know the exact state of things here.—The Hon. D. H. Lewis at Washington has exulted very much at Frank Wadell's Tammany resolution, and thinks that, like a clap of thunder in a clear sky, Mr. Calhoun can get along and make noise enough without the newspapers. He will find out his mistake by and by. That resolution was merely the premature explosion of a percussion cap—the Legislature fire off the big 40 pounder this week.—These are truths—we care not who hear them. We don't care a button for all the politicians that ever will go to the bottomless pit—we publish a genuine newspaper—price two cents—cash in advance.

**THE SOMERS CASE REVIVED.**—The astounding fact which we recently published, that the recent court martial held on Captain Mackenzie, stood over for proven, or guilty of murder, to fire for not proven—and also that the informal opinions of the cabinet were all against Mackenzie, except Secretary Upshur, has created a great deal of sensation among the silver-pitcher people, and some of the Wall street papers.

The "American" has the folly and silliness to deny the accuracy of the statement, because, forsooth, the members are sworn to secrecy, and even if the fact is known, it should not be believed or published. The members of a Court Martial, after the trial is over, have a perfect right to state what their votes or opinions may have been—but the conduct of the American is only a piece with the usual impudence and arrogance of those who have sought to stifle all the truths and all the facts in this lamentable case. Indeed, some of these prints, not content with the suppression of truth, even go so far as to do acts that look like forgery, or what is called in gentler phrase, "interpolation."

It is well known that the first announcement of the decision in McKenzie's case was made in the "Courier & Enquirer." They received it from Philadelphia, from the same source which communicated it to the "United States Gazette," which published it on the same day in that city. In the "Courier's" publication, the language was "honorably acquitted," which appears now to have been a forgery or an interpolation.

**THE SOMERS CASE.**—We notice in several papers reports of the finding of the Court Martial in the case of Commander McKenzie, in which the term "honorably acquitted," has been interpolated. The report published in our paper, which we believe to be correct, stated simply "do quit." We notice this discrepancy, because we are of opinion that there exists this distinction. An "honorably acquitted" means a unanimous acquittal, an "acquittal" may proceed from a disagreement in the Court, and may be the verdict by a bare majority.

We infer from the terms of the finding that Commander McKenzie has not been "honorably acquitted," that is, there are some of the members of the Court in favor of his conviction.

We call now upon the "Courier & Enquirer" to state whether they knowingly or ignorantly, published this forgery or interpolation? It is of much importance in order to understand rightly the opinion of the Court Martial on McKenzie's conduct. In this case the difference is most essential, and truth should not be trifled with in matters of such grave importance.

**NEW RATES OF POSTAGE—CHEAP LITERATURE.**—Instructions were received at our Post office on Saturday from Washington to charge pamphlet postage on all the cheap publications of the day, issued as extras. For the future, therefore, the postage on the extras of the Brother Jonathan, and New World, will be 25 cents a sheet. These publications are also to be shut out from Canada on the first of July next.

This will affect the circulation of the cheap literature very much, and give a great advantage to the cheap publications of the Harpers, Appletons, and such like booksellers, over those of the New World, and Brother Jonathan offices. The postage on the weekly papers remains the same—the new regulation only affects the extras.

**STEAM SHIP BRITANNIA** is out thirteen days this noon. She will bring twelve days later intelligence.

It will be interesting from England, in the shape of important debates in the British Parliament on the Treaty of Washington, which was to have been held off on the 21st ult. by Lord Palmerston.

It will also be interesting from China, in showing the progress of democracy among the Celestials, and the increase of bitterness against the outside barbarians.

From other parts of the world the news will be worth reading, and that's all.

**Fourteen Days Later from Europe—Arrival of the Overland Mail—Up and Down of the French Ministry—State of the Markets—The Comet in Europe—Earthquakes in England—Terrible Revolutions all over the World, &c. &c. &c.**

Another packet, the Columbus, Captain Cole, has made a quick passage from England. She arrived last night, with advices from Liverpool to the 22d ult. inclusive. Captain C. received a card of thanks from his passengers, which we shall give to-morrow. He deserves it, and no mistake.

Lord Palmerston was to have brought the subject of the Ashburton treaty under the consideration of the House of Commons on the night of the 21st ult. We shall be curious to hear what Sir Robert Peel has to say in defence of that treaty.

The motion in the French Chamber to turn out the Guizot Ministry, has completely failed, having been rejected by a majority of 45, and the original motion carried by a majority of 89.

The Rochester and England, hence, had arrived at Liverpool.

Our accounts from Madrid are of the 12th ult.—They are, however, destitute of importance.

The Comet has been seen in Europe. See Herschel's letter.

No change in American cottons. Foreign descriptions had fallen off a 3d. Market heavy. The Acadia arrived out on the 13th ult.

The overland mail had arrived. Nothing later from China. The news from India is favorable to England.

It will be seen under the head of China, that the news from that quarter was considered unfortunate in England. It had no bad effect on the markets, however.

There had been a turn out and riot at Middleton. The turn-outs were supported by the operatives at Manchester, and other places.

Shocks of earthquakes have been felt all over England. They were quite sensibly felt at Liverpool.

The Chartists' trials have ended in the conviction of Fergus O'Connor, and twenty or thirty others. No sentence at the last accounts.

A letter dated Vienna, 4th inst., states that a serious riot had taken place between the students and the military, in which one student was killed, and several wounded.

The fare by the Great Western to New York is reduced to thirty guineas, and one guinea steward's fee; and from New York to one hundred dollars, and five dollars steward's fee.

James Stevenson, a native of Scotland, has been taken before the Lord Mayor charged with using threatening language respecting her Majesty and Sir Robert Peel. The prisoner was given into custody in consequence of his often having stated, during his voyage from Scotland, that he was going to London to have an interview with Sir Robert Peel, whom he intended to shoot.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert have returned to Buckingham Palace from Claremont.

The marriage of the Prince of Saxe Cobourg Gotha with the Princess Clementine of France will take place early in May.

The King and Queen of the Belgians are shortly expected in Paris to assist at the marriage of Princess Clementine of Orleans with the Prince of Cobourg.

The celebrated Colocotron died at Athens on the 20th ult., of an attack of apoplexy.

The French ministry have met with a reverse. They were lately defeated on a local question.

**PARLIAMENT.**—Lord Montagu moved for a select committee to inquire into the operation of the corn law of the last session of Parliament in connection with the distress which prevailed throughout the country.

Lord Assheton attributed much of the distress of the country to the failure of the markets of America, and was glad that there were already symptoms of improvement manifesting themselves.

Their lordships divided, when the motion was defeated by a majority of 29.

Mr. Gladstone, in reply to a question from Lord Worsley, said that he did not believe any duty was paid on live stock imported from the United States into this country.

Sir R. Peel, laid on the table papers relating to the treaty with the United States of America.

**AMERICAN STATE DESPATCHES.**—The reply of the Earl of Aberdeen to the holders of the North American Stocks, who have been endeavoring to enlist the British Government in their claims to compensation for any interference. Indeed, it is a question of private nature that it hardly comes within the province of Government interference.—*London Globe.*

The American vessel Wukona has brought into Havre the crew of the Lotus, English vessel, Captain Shiel, bound to Hong Kong.

The crew were forced to abandon her on the 25th.—*Havre Journal.*

**NUMEROUS ARRIVALS.**—On Sunday last, the wind shifted to the westward, and we have had immense arrivals of vessels from all parts of the world. The number on Sunday was 37, and on Monday, 52. Of these, no less than 54 were ships laden with cotton, bringing at the least 130,000 bales. Should the wind continue favorable for two or three days longer, it is expected that the arrivals of cotton during the present week will be greater than were ever known since cotton was first imported into Liverpool. The arrival of this immense amount of shipping and produce will give abundant employment to all the laboring population for several weeks.—*Liverpool Courier.*

**GREAT COMET.**—To the Editor of THE TIMES:—Sir: I wish to direct the attention of your astronomical readers to the fact, which I think hardly admits of a doubt, of the great magnitude being in the course of its progress through our system, and at present not far from its perihelion. Its tail, for such I cannot doubt it to be, was conspicuously visible, both last night and the night before, extending to a distance of 100 miles, and stretching obliquely westwards and downwards, between the stars kappa and lambda, Leporis, and then between gamma and delta, Eridani, till lost in the vapors of the Milky Way. The direction of the tail, as it passed, passes precisely through the place of the Sun in the ecliptic at the present time, a circumstance which appears to me to be of considerable importance.

As the portion of the tail actually visible on Friday evening was fully 30 degrees in length, and the head at least 25 degrees to the length, it is evident that, if it is not one of its first rate magnitude; and if it is not one, it is a phenomenon beyond the Earth's atmosphere of a nature of great importance.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, J. F. W. MERSHELL.

**Collingwood, March 19.** P. S.—Had there been any post last night, this communication would have been made earlier.

**S. P. M. March 19.**—The tail of the comet, for such it must assuredly be, is again visible, though much obscured by haze, and holding very nearly the same position.

**France.** A new incident occurred in the Chamber of Deputies on the 16th ult. which it was deemed proper might tend to restore the vote by ballot to favor. On a proposition of Ministers (by a bill prepared and introduced to the Chamber) to grant a sum of 2,000,000 francs to the Chamber of Deputies, the bill was passed by a vote of 151 to 147.

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lavored with the warmth of July, but the extraordinary thing is the sudden, and it is supposed, unexpected, appearance of a Comet yesterday evening, the largest, says the Univers, ever known. I did not see it myself, nor have I met any person who can say he has seen it. It is supposed to have appeared in the heavens on the 11th inst. at 10 o'clock, and to have been discovered at seven o'clock, with a tail extending over a space of 60 degrees viz, one fourth of the heavens. It proceeded from the constellation of Orion, which it crossed at angle of 40 degrees. If the moon had been in the early, or the daylight had been less, probably a brilliant sight would have been witnessed by all Paris. Several gentlemen, astonished at the statement in the Univers, as they had no suspicion of the appearance of a Comet, went to Mont Arago this morning, at the Observatory. He was in bed, but he had charged a member of his family to inform all who came to make inquiries, that the account in the Univers was substantially correct; and that he intended, with his colleagues, to go to the observatory this evening, and publish an account of his observations. The nucleus of the Comet was not visible, on account, as is supposed, of its immense distance.

**Portugal.** The Lisbon mail of 1st March brings fresh proposals to Lord Aberdeen. The decided stand that England has lately taken upon the commercial treaty has induced the Portuguese to offer a reduction on Newfoundland cured fish from sixteen to eight per cent. The reduction would be made generally an average of thirty-five per cent. *ad valorem*. Drawbacks and bounties upon the native fisheries will be allowed, should any sufficient importance justify such a measure. The project of the Finance Minister for raising the duty on the tobacco revenue was carried by a majority of fifty. The inundation throughout every district of Portugal had been considerable, and had done great damage.

**Algiers.** Accounts from Algiers of the 10th ult. announce that the celebrated Marabout El Zerdout, who last year excited the Eastern tribes to revolt against the French, and ever since held the field, had been lately killed in an encounter with the troops of Bona. The Governor General intended, in order to facilitate his operations next summer, to establish several new camps—one to the southwest of Milianah, at Tenet el-Hard, another on the Oued Rouabah, a third at El Zerdout, and the fourth near Tenez. In the meanwhile all the disposable troops were employed in the construction of the road between Blidah and Milianah.

**Turkey.** The firman for the amelioration of the condition of the serfs of Bosnia, given in the letter of our correspondent, has been received at Constantinople, as a proof of the wishes of the Turkish ministers to consult the interests of Christian subjects. The difference respecting Syria, between the Porte and the ambassadors of the Powers, have not, however, been all cleared up.

**China.** The overland mail brings intelligence from Hong Kong and Macao to the 1st of January, from Calcutta to the 23d, and from Bombay to the 3d of February. The intelligence from China is of great importance, showing, as it does, that hostilities in that country have not yet terminated. The province of Bona, the Governor General intended, in order to facilitate his operations next summer, to establish several new camps—one to the southwest of Milianah, at Tenet el-Hard, another on the Oued Rouabah, a third at El Zerdout, and the fourth near Tenez. In the meanwhile all the disposable troops were employed in the construction of the road between Blidah and Milianah.

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**Estimated stock at Liverpool, 640,000 against 503,000 last year, of which 460,000 American.** March 13.—The import this week has been large; but the demand for American is not so great as last week. The supply is still kept out. The demand for ordinary and middling kinds of American has been good, and the price of the week has been steady. The sales of the week have been 1,500 bags at very steady prices, of which 1,500 are on speculation, and 3,500 are for shipment.

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